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6	UNITED STATES D	DISTRICT COURT				
7	WESTERN DISTRICT	OF WASHINGTON				
8	AT TAC	COMA				
9	LIAM RILEY and SARAH RILEY,					
10	individually and the marital community comprised thereof,	NO.				
11	Plaintiffs,	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES				
12		AND TUDY DENIAND				
13	V.	AND JURY DEMAND				
14	CITY OF TACOMA, a municipal corporation; and TACOMA FIRE					
15	DEPARTMENT, a municipal department,	*				
16	Defendants.					
17						
18		lley and Sarah Riley, by and through their				
19	undersigned attorneys of record, and allege as follows:					
20	I. PARTIES					
21	1.1 Plaintiffs Liam Riley and Sarah Riley are a married couple comprising a					
22	marital community under the laws of the state of Washington who at all times material					
23	hereto have resided in Tacoma, Pierce Count	y, Washington. Liam Riley is employed by				
24	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES	DAVIES PEARSON, P.C. ATTORNEYS AT LAW				
25	AND JURY DEMAND	920 FAWCETT P.O. BOX 1657 TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98401				
26	Page 1 of 11 jw/s:\25xxx\254xx\25409\1\pleadings\complaint (final).docx	TELEPHONE (253) 620-1500 TOLL-FREE (800) 439-1112 FAX (253) 572-3052				

the City of Tacoma Fire Department as a Fire Marine Diesel Mechanic. At the time of the events giving rise to this lawsuit occurred, Mr. Riley had a legally cognizable disability as defined under 42 U.S.C. § 12102, which substantially limits at least one of his major life activities.

- Defendant City of Tacoma is a municipal corporation located in Pierce 1.2 County, Washington. At all times material hereto, Defendant City of Tacoma has conducted operations in Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington. All acts, omissions, and conduct of the employees, agents, representatives or individuals of the City of Tacoma were done by and on behalf of Defendant City of Tacoma.
- Defendant City of Tacoma Fire Department is a municipal department of 1.3 Defendant City of Tacoma, at all times material hereto conducting operations in Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington. All acts, omissions and conduct of the employees, agents, representatives, or individuals of Defendant Tacoma Fire Department were done by and on behalf of Defendant City of Tacoma and Defendant Tacoma Fire Department.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- The Court has original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 1343 2.1 because Plaintiff's claims arise under 42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq., the ADA.
- Supplemental jurisdiction for the remaining claims is proper under 28 2.2 U.S.C. § 1367, because all claims arise from the action in which the Court has original jurisdiction and form part of the same case or controversy.
- Venue is properly in the Western District of Washington at Tacoma under 2.3 28 U.S.C. §1391, because all of the Defendants reside in Pierce County and the events

AND JURY DEMAND

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COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

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AND JURY DEMAND

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DAVIES PEARSON, P.C. ATTORNEYS AT LAW 920 FAWCETT -- P.O. BOX 1657 TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98401 TELEPHONE (253) 620-1500 TOLL-FREE (800) 439-1112 FAX (253) 572-3052 experiencing a headache, minor vision disturbances, and hypertension while performing his normal work duties. His blood pressure measured 228/140, as determined by an EMT on staff. Mr. Riley immediately sought emergency medical treatment with Dr. Norman Seaholm. Dr. Seaholm diagnosed Mr. Riley with hypertension. He advised Mr. Riley to refrain from work for the next two weeks. Dr. Seaholm provided a letter advising of this need to Mr. Riley's supervisor at the Fire Department.

- 3.4 Mr. Riley began treatment for anxiety and panic on November 20, 2018.
- 3.5 Throughout the remainder of 2018 and into 2019, Mr. Riley made multiple complaints to his supervisors regarding the treatment from his two co-workers and the effect it was having on his health. No steps were taken to correct the situation, however.
- 3.6 In a letter from Dr. Seaholm to Mr. Riley's supervisor at the Fire Department on February 6, 2019, Dr. Seaholm explained that Mr. Riley was at high risk for a cardiovascular event and that Mr. Riley's work stressors played a significant role in exacerbating Mr. Riley's medical conditions. Dr. Seaholm stated that a resolution to the conflicts Mr. Riley is experiencing at work was paramount to his recovery.
- 3.7 Dr. Seaholm submitted a letter on Mr. Riley's behalf on March 21, 2019, excusing him from work for five days for medical reasons.
- 3.8 In another letter from Dr. Seaholm on March 25, 2019, Dr. Seaholm directly related the conflicts at work with his co-workers to Mr. Riley's hypertension. He also opined that Mr. Riley was at a very high risk of stroke if Mr. Riley's extreme blood pressure spikes were to recur while at work.
 - 3.9 During this time, Mr. Riley requested reasonable accommodations from

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COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND JURY DEMAND

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would be able to perform his normal job duties as long as he did not have to interact directly with Ms. Hagger or Mr. Howard, the two co-workers who were bullying him. The Fire Department failed to provide Mr. Riley with the requested reasonable disability accommodations or take any steps to protect Mr. Riley from these two individuals.

Defendants City of Tacoma and Tacoma Fire Department. He advised them that he

- Sometime on or around May 16, 2019, Mr. Riley's supervisor retaliated 3.10 against him by attempting to vote him out as his union Shop Steward. Mr. Riley also experienced retaliation and hostile behavior by his supervisors and Fire Department Deputy Chief John Pappuleas, including being publicly berated and humiliated in front of co-workers. On at least one occasion, Deputy Chief Pappuleas discussed Mr. Riley's confidential health information in a public setting, in violation of HIPAA laws under 45 C.F.R. § 164.530(c).
- On June 3, 2019, Fire Department Deputy Chief John Pappuleas offered Mr. Riley a temporary assignment in the electrical shop. Mr. Riley gladly accepted the position. Mr. Riley was happy in his new position in the electrical shop and was able to stop taking his anxiety medicine while working there. His work there was exemplary, and his supervisor at the electrical shop stated that he would like to keep Mr. Riley there permanently. During this time, Mr. Riley withdrew his reasonable accommodation request, as he was able to successfully perform all of his job duties without accommodations in his new role, since he was not being forced to endure abuse and harassment from Ms. Hagger or Mr. Howard. It was Mr. Riley's understanding that, while the electrical position was temporary, he would not be required to return to his

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND JURY DEMAND

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original position as a marine mechanic if Ms. Hagger or Mr. Howard were still there.

- 3.12 On June 3, 2019, Mr. Riley filed Charges of Discrimination with the Washington State Human Rights Commission and the EEOC against Tacoma Fire Department. The charge was based on the retaliation Mr. Riley had experienced as well as violations of the ADA.
- 3.13 In early July 2019, Mr. Riley filed a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights under 45 C.F.R. § 164.530(c). Mr. Riley alleged that his protected health information (PHI) was violated by the Fire Department.
- 3.14 On July 15, 2019, Mr. Riley was ordered by Deputy Chief Pappuleas and HR supervisor Shelby Fritz to return to his original position in the marine department without any accommodations to protect him from Ms. Hagger or Mr. Howard. This order placed Mr. Riley in danger of another severe medical emergency. The move was ordered immediately after Tacoma Fire Department was presented with Mr. Riley's complaints from the Office of Civil Rights and the EEOC, and they were clearly retaliatory in nature against Mr. Riley for lodging the complaints. Mr. Riley again requested reasonable accommodation be made to prevent his high blood pressure condition from being exacerbated and causing a cardiac event.
- 3.15 Tacoma Fire Department suggested mediation between Mr. Riley and Ms. Hagger on July 26, 2019. Because of his reasonable fear that having to interact with Ms. Hagger directly would cause a potential deadly blood pressure spike for him, Mr. Riley asked that he and Ms. Hagger be located in different rooms during the mediation. This request was denied and the mediation did not take place on the proposed date. It was not

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES
AND JURY DEMAND

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1	above, Plaintiffs have suffered physical and emotional damages, for which they are						
2	entitled to be compensated.						
3	CAUSES OF ACTION						
4	IV. COUNT I – VIOLATION OF THE ADA						
5	4.1 Plaintiffs reallege and reincorporate every allegation above as if fully set						
6	forth herein.						
7	4.2 Mr. Riley is a person with a disability as defined by the Americans With						
8	Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12102 who is a qualified individual and who with or without						
9	accommodation can perform the essential functions of his position with the City of						
10	Tacoma Fire Department.						
11	4.3 Tacoma Fire Department is fully aware of Mr. Riley's disability of						
12	perceived disability.						
13	4.4 Mr. Riley requested reasonable accommodations, including but not limited						
14	to remaining in his original position but not having to interact directly with Ms. Hagger						
15	or Mr. Howard, restructuring or modifying his work schedule, or moving to a different						
16	vacant position for which he was qualified.						
17	4.5 Defendants City of Tacoma and Tacoma Fire Department refused to						
18	consider the reasonable accommodations requested by Mr. Riley and, in fact, forced him						
19	to return to his original position with no changes put in place to protect him or address						
20	the situation in any way.						
21	4.6 Tacoma Fire Department violated 42 U.S.C. § 2000e, et seq., the ADA						
22	when it refused Mr. Riley's multiple requests for reasonable accommodations.						
23							
24	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES DAVIES PEARSON, P.C. ATTORNEYS AT LAW						
25	AND JURY DEMAND 920 FAWCETT P.O. BOX 1657 TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98401 TELEPHONE (253) 620-1500						
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1 VIII. JURY DEMAND 2 Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury on all issues pursuant to the Seventh 3 Amendment of the United States Constitution and F.R.C.P. 38 (b). 4 IX. PRAYER FOR RELIEF Wherefore, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against the Defendants, jointly and 5 6 severally, and an award for damages as follows: 7 For special and general damages and loss of consortium to Plaintiffs in 1. 8 amounts to be awarded by the trier of fact. For punitive damages against Defendants for violation of the Plaintiffs' 9 2. 10 civil rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution. 11 For Plaintiffs' costs, expenses, and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 3. 12 all applicable statutory authority For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and equitable. 13 4. 14 **DATED** this 12th day of December, 2019. 15 /s/ Rebecca M. Larson REBECCA M. LARSON, WSBA #20156 16 Attorneys for Plaintiff Liam S. Riley 17 DAVIES PEARSON, P.C. 18 920 Fawcett Avenue PO Box 1657 19 Tacoma, WA 98401 (t) 253-620-1500 20 (f) 253-572-3052 21 Email: rlarson@dpearson.com 22 23 DAVIES PEARSON, P.C. 24 **COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES** ATTORNEYS AT LAW AND JURY DEMAND 920 FAWCETT -- P.O. BOX 1657 25 TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98401 TELEPHONE (253) 620-1500 Page 11 of 11 26 TOLL-FREE (800) 439-1112 jw / s:\25xxx\254xx\25409\1\pleadings\complaint (final).docx FAX (253) 572-3052

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General Liability Claim Form

Pursuant to Chapter 4.96 RCW, this form is for filing a claim against the City of Tacoma. Some of the information requested on this form is required by RCW 4.96.020 and may be subject to public disclosure. Pursuant to the new law, Claim for Damages forms cannot be submitted electronically (via e-mail or fax).

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT IN INK

Mail or deliver original claim to:

City of Tacoma Office of the City Clerk 747 Market Street, Room 220 Tacoma, WA 98402

Business Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and holidays.

	1 Of Officia	l Use Only	
NIa			
No.			

CLAIMANT INFORMATION	
	¥

1. Claimant's name: Ril	ev	Liam	S.	
	ast name	First	Middle	Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy)
2. Current residential ad	ldress: 7105 44 th	Ave E. Tacoma, WA	98443	
3. Mailing address (if dif	ferent):			
4. Residential address a	at the time of the i	ncident (if different f	rom current addres	ss):
5. Claimant's daytime te	elephone number:			206-769-6376
		Home	Busin	ess Cell
6. Claimant's e-mail add	dress: <u>locofomoco</u>	oracing@gmail.com		
INCIDENT INFORMATI	ION			
7. Date of the incident:_	(mm/dd/y	(УУУУ)	Time:	□a.m. □ p.m. (check one)
8. If the incident occurre	ed over a period o	of time, date of first a	and last occurrence	S:
from <u>6/13/18</u> (<i>mm/dd/yyyy</i>)	Time:	_□ a.m. □ p.m. to_ (check one)	current Ti (mm/dd/yyyy)	me: a.m. p.m. (check one)
9. Location of incident:	Tacoma City	Washington State		South Orchard Street or Address where occurred
10. If the incident occur	red on a street or	highway:		
Name of street or high	hway	At t	he intersection with/c	or Nearest intersecting street
11. City agency or depart	artment allegedly	responsible for dam	age/injury: <u>City of</u>	Tacoma Fire Department
12. Names, addresses,				
Sarah Riley: 7105	44 th Ave E. Tacor	ma, WA 98443, 253	-307- 1846	

- Mr. Riley is employed as a fire/marine diesel mechanic for the Tacoma Fire Department. Mr. Riley suffers from hypertension, liver inflammation, anxiety, and panic attacks. His hypertension is exacerbated by stress and anxiety. Mr. Riley took FMLA leave in early 2019 at the direction of his physician. Since then, he has experienced bullying, retaliation, and hostility from his co-workers Ms. Hager and Mr. Howard. The stress of interacting with these two co-workers has resulted in multiple trips to the emergency room with life-threatening blood pressure levels. Mr. Riley has made several complaints to his supervisors regarding his interactions with these two co-workers, but no steps have been taken to alleviate the situation. Mr. Riley has produced two letters from his physician asking for accommodations for his hypertension and related issues. Mr. Riley's physician believes that despite his medical disability, he should be able to perform his job with accommodations. Tacoma Fire Department has failed to accommodate Mr. Riley even after repeated

15. Describe the cause of the injury or damages. Explain the extent of property loss or medical, physical or

Has this incident been reported to law enforcement, safety or security personnel? If so, when and to whom?

This has not been reported to law enforcement.

16. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of treating medical providers. Attach copies of all medical reports and billings.

Normal Seaholm, MD; 4215 49th Ave NE, Tacoma, WA 98422, 253-792-6651; Karey Regula: 325 E Pioneer Ave., Puyallup, WA 98372, 253-697-8400

- 17. Please attach documents which support the claim's allegations. Already in City's Possession.
- 18. I claim damages from the City of Tacoma in the sum of \$ 500,000.

discussions with his supervisors and the human resources department.

This Claim form must be signed by the Claimant, a person holding a written power of attorney from the Claimant, by an attorney admitted to practice in Washington State on the Claimant's behalf, or by a court-approved guardian or quardian ad litem on behalf of the Claimant.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

10/03/19 920 Fawcett Ave, Tacoma, Pierce County

Date and Place (residential address, city and county)

Signature of Claimant or Authorized Agent



Received

OCT 07 2019

Davies Pearson, P.C.

October 4, 2019

Rebecca M. Larson, Attorney at Law Davies Pearson, P.C. P.O. Box 1657 Tacoma, WA 98401-1657

Re:

Your Client:

Liam S. Riley

Claim for Damages Dated: 10/03/2019 Claim for Damages No.:

16469

Incident Date:

06/13/2018 to Present Day

Incident Location:

The City of Tacoma Fire Department

Dear Ms. Larson:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your claim filed with the City of Tacoma on October 3, 2019.

I am in the process of contacting the department involved in order to obtain the information necessary to evaluate your claim.

I will contact you when I have completed the investigation and am able to respond. If you need to reach me, my direct telephone number is 253.591.5628. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Lauren Ryker Risk Analyst

EEOC Form 161 (11/16)

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS To: Liam Riley From: **Seattle Field Office** 909 First Avenue 7105 44th Avenue South Tacoma, WA 98443 Suite 400 Seattle, WA 98104-1061 On behalf of person(s) aggrieved whose identity is CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR §1601.7(a)) Telephone No. EEOC Charge No. **EEOC** Representative Shannon De Jong, (206) 220-6914 551-2019-01771 Investigator THE EEOC IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS CHARGE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON: The facts alleged in the charge fail to state a claim under any of the statutes enforced by the EEOC. Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act. The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes. Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge The EEOC issues the following determination: Based upon its investigation, the EEOC is unable to conclude that the X information obtained establishes violations of the statutes. This does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. No finding is made as to any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge. The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employment practices agency that investigated this charge. Other (briefly state) - NOTICE OF SUIT RIGHTS -(See the additional information attached to this form.) Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act: This will be the only notice of dismissal and of your right to sue that we will send you. You may file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) under federal law based on this charge in federal or state court. Your lawsuit must be filed WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receipt of this notice; or your right to sue based on this charge will be lost. (The time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be different.) Equal Pay Act (EPA): EPA suits must be filed in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment. This means that backpay due for any violations that occurred more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit may not be collectible. On behalf of the Commission September 18, 2019 for Enclosures(s) Nancy A. Sienko, (Date Mailed) Director

cc:

Shelby Fritz c/o Cheryl Comer, Deputy City Attorney 747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402 Rebecca Larson DAVIES PEARSON PC 920 Fawcett Ave Po Box 1657 Tacoma, WA 98401